

January 8, 2004

The Honorable John H. Thomas, Chairman
House Science, Technology and Energy Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 304
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HJR 20 – A resolution supporting President Bush's hydrogen fuel initiative

Dear Chairman Thomas and Members of the Committee:

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) welcomes the opportunity to testify in support of HJR 20, a resolution supporting President Bush's hydrogen fuel initiative. In general, DES supports the development and implementation of alternative fuels and infrastructure, including hydrogen. Although widespread use of hydrogen as a fuel may be several years away, it may offer unmatched potential health and environmental benefits.

The generation and storage of pure hydrogen for economical use as a fuel introduces significant scientific challenges. Harnessing energy generated via electro-chemical reaction (as with hydrogen) is believed to be twice as efficient as internal combustion, and emissions from the use of hydrogen are essentially limited to water vapor. These characteristics make hydrogen an attractive alternative to pursue as a way to reduce our reliance on petroleum-based fuels.

DES believes that it is important for the State to promote the development of uses for alternative fuels and infrastructure in New Hampshire, and has taken a leadership in fostering such programs as the Granite State Clean Cities Coalition, Green Car Labeling, and New Hampshire's Alternative Fuel Vehicle Project. DES support for HJR 20 reflects our ongoing commitment to help New Hampshire responsibly develop and implement alternative fuel strategies.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on HJR 21. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Air Resources Division Director Robert R. Scott (271-1088) or Rebecca Ohler (271-6749) at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Michael P. Nolin
Commissioner

cc: Representative J. Edward Kerns

